

LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

From Porter & Coates we have received the following recent publications of D. Appleton & Co.:

"The Origin of Civilization and the Primitive Condition of Man," by Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M. P., F. R. S., is a sequel to the same author's "Prehistoric Times," and apart from its scientific value it is an exceedingly interesting record of the manners, customs, habits, and mental and religious condition of the savage tribes. Sir John Lubbock is an investigator of the school of Darwin and Huxley, and although his facts and opinions frequently conflict with the orthodox ideas of the present day, only a very blind and obstinate bigotry will deny their importance or refuse to give them consideration. The work before us treats of a great variety of subjects, but the chapters upon "Marriage and Relationship," "Religion," and "Character and Morals" are those which will command the most attention. These relate many exceedingly curious facts which have an important relation to the moral and physical development of the human race, and which all readers will agree with the conclusions that the author draws from them, or not, there will be few to decline giving him the credit for an honest endeavor to arrive at the truth.

"Valerie Aylmer," by Christian Reid, is the first effort of a young American novelist entitled to much praise. Mr. Reid is a Southerner, and his story, the scenes of which are laid principally in Louisiana and Baltimore, has a good deal of meaning over the "lost cause" in it, and a good deal of talk about "free lances," "pretty pages," and other pseudo chivalric nonsense that is characteristic of the section of the country to which Mr. Reid belongs, and which it is to be hoped will be done away with by the new influences that are now remoulding Southern thought and society. All the women of this story are perfectly beautiful, and all the men are Apollons and Adonises, while any such thing as real character is apparently beyond the comprehension of the author. If these were the only distinguishing features of the novel, it would not be worthy of more attention than the thousand and one efforts of third-class fiction writers that are annually issued from the press. Mr. Reid, however, knows how to tell a story; and while his plot is open to the objection of not being as well digested as it might, it is highly dramatic, and some of the more important scenes and incidents show unmistakable power. As the first effort of a young writer, "Valerie Aylmer" is certainly a story of great promise, and Mr. Reid, if he fulfils the reasonable expectations raised by this performance, will easily obtain a high rank among the living American novelists.

J. B. Lippincott & Co. send us the following new publications of Lee & Shepard: "Why and How," by Russell H. Conwell, is the more important features of which we published an abstract a few weeks ago. Mr. Conwell was for many years a resident of China, and this work shows him to have been an attentive and appreciative student of the manners, customs, and ideas of the people. The work is a lively and entertaining record of incidents of travel and of the innumerable objects in interest that are likely to come under the observation of a wide-awake American in such a country as China, but its chief value is in the view it takes of Chinese emigration, and of the why and wherefore of the great exodus from the Flowery Kingdom that is now giving so much trouble to American politicians. As the Chinese question is now becoming one of the first importance in this country, the work before us is well deserving of the thoughtful attention of those who wish to understand it in all its bearings, and we cordially recommend it as the best exhibit on the subject of Chinese emigration that has yet been put before the public.

"Letters Everywhere" is the title of a series of short stories and rhymes for children which bear the stamp of a French origin, and which are illustrated by a number of very artistic designs by Theophile Schuler. This is one of the prettiest books for children we have seen for a long time, and we predict for it a great popularity with the young people.

"The Social Stage," by George M. Baker, is a series of dramas, comedies, burlesques, and entertainments for parlor theatricals, schools, and public exhibitions. These little dramas are well written, and as they are easy to act, and do not require any great preparation in the way of scenery and dresses, they are well deserving of the attention of stage-struck youths and damsels who are anxious to give their friends a sample of their histrionic abilities.

"Mrs. Hale's Receipts for the Million," published by T. B. Peterson & Brothers, contains 4545 receipts, facts, directions, etc., in the useful, ornamental and domestic arts. Most of these are sensible and useful, but a number are excessively silly, and have all the appearance of having been used simply as padding.

The American Sunday School Union send us the following religious stories for children which it has just published:—"Afterwards; or, Janet's True Friend;" "Dick and his Donkey, or, How to Pay the Rent;" "Out in the Storm;" and "Hungering and Thirsting."

Part No. 11 of "Lippincott's Pronouncing Dictionary of Biography and Mythology" has been issued. It brings the work down to the title "Paul Delarocche." The most important biographies in this compilation are very full and satisfactory, and it is undoubtedly the most complete work of the kind ever given to the public.

The November number of Old and New has the following table of contents:—"Old and New;" "The French Army;" "Edouard Laboulaye;" "The Mystery of Edwin Drood;" "George B. Woods;" "Six Months on Five Cents;" "Ralph Keeler;" "Sylvia's Song;" "Nora Perry;" "Suffrage and Education;" "The Science and Learning of the Virgin;" "G. P. Winslow;" "The Wall in the Forest;" "Jules

Ward Howe; "Pink and White Tyranny," chaps. viii, ix, x, Mrs. H. B. Stowe; "Indian Summer;" "What Happened to the Khan and the Poor Man's Son;" "Theology and Faith;" Edward A. Horton; "Quack Chemists;" F. W. Clark; "Rebecca's Ma;" Fred. W. Loring; "Talk about the Tea-Table;" "The Examiner;" "Record of Progress."

The Schoolday Visitor for November has a pleasant variety of stories, sketches, and poetry adapted to the tastes of young readers.

POPULAR FEELING IN FRANCE.—The German war correspondents make frequent references to the intensely hostile feeling of the French population. Herr Wachenhusen, of the Cologne Gazette, says:—"That at Nancy the billeting of the soldiers has been suspended, in consequence of murders committed on them in their quarters. There, as in every part of France occupied by the invaders, the hatred of the people is daily increasing, and the foolish hope of driving out the enemy by a national rising is fanned by emissaries of the republic. Six thousand men are said to be already under arms concealed in the woods, and commanded by a general. As yet there have been few outrages of this kind, but a general has been murdered at Nancy, and postillions are fired on. 'If the guerrilla warfare, against which we know how to defend ourselves, really commences, it will flame up in every corner.' In the vicinity of Metz, according to another writer, soldiers have a second time been fired on at Maricux, and in an adjacent village the road was blocked up with heavy stones. A fine was imposed, which had the next day to be increased fivefold, as the stones were still not removed. A change of the position of the troops before Metz recently gave the people the impression that the Germans were retreating, and that MacMahon was advancing from the Veges with 200,000 men. Nobody believes in the magnitude of the French defeats, and though those who saw the long trails of prisoners pass by have misgivings, they are not without the hope of a turn of fortune. Metz, it is insisted, can hold out not only months but years, the provisions being on so large a scale and the heroism of the army and townspeople being so great.

A few days ago a woman offered some brandy for sale, attracting a group of soldiers around her, but it was found to be poisoned, and she was arrested. The writer regards the attitude of the people as a covert reason against the annexation of Metz and its vicinity. Another correspondent states that at Mulhansen, where the railway station is occupied by the Germans, they do not enter the town unless armed to the teeth. They have been fired on frequently, but at present only one Uhlán has been killed. The artisans are strongly inclined to Communism, and before the entry of the troops had demolished the Town Hall. The rest of the people, little as they like the Germans, are consequently glad of their presence. An officer writes from Champey:—"We are no longer sure of our lives; an army gendarme has just been shot before our door, and when an officer hurried out to look for the criminal two bullets whistled past his ear. The officers unfortunately could not be discovered."

THE SURRENDER OF STRASBURG.—The Staatsanzeiger publishes the terms of the capitulation of Strasburg, as follows:—

The royal Prussian Lieutenant-General von Werder, commander of the corps besieging Strasburg, solicited by the French Lieutenant-General Ulrich, commander of Strasburg, to put an end to the hostilities against the fortress in consideration of the honorable and brave defense of the place, agrees to conclude the following capitulation:—

Article 1. At 8 o'clock in the morning on Sept. 28, 1870, Lieutenant-General Ulrich evacuates the citadel, the Ansterlitz gate, the Fisher gate, and the National gate. At the same time the German troops will occupy these positions.

Article 2. At 11 o'clock on the same day the French garrison, including Gardes Mobiles and National Guards, leave the fortress through lunette No. 44 and redoubt No. 37, and there lay down their arms.

Article 3. The troops of the line and the Gardes Mobiles become prisoners of war and march out with their luggage. The National Guards and francs-tireurs are released on parole, and by 11 o'clock A. M. surrender their arms at the Mayor's office. The list of the officers of these troops at the same hour to be furnished to General von Werder.

Article 4. The officers of the French garrison of Strasburg are at liberty to depart and choose their own place of residence, on parole the form of the parole is attached to these articles of capitulation. Those officers who do not sign the parole proceed with the prisoners of war to Germany. All the French military surgeons remain until further notice in their functions.

Article 5. Lieutenant-General Ulrich, immediately upon the surrender of arms, agrees to deliver over, through the proper officers, all the military material on hand. Officers and officials charged with this duty assemble on the 28th, at 12 o'clock, upon the Place de Broglie.

This capitulation is executed and signed by the following plenipotentiaries:—On the German side by Lieutenant-Colonel von Leszynski, Chief of Staff of the corps besieging Strasburg, and Count Henckel von Donnersmark, Captain of Cavalry and Adjutant. On the French side by Colonel Ducas, Commander of Strasburg, and Lieutenant-Colonel Mangin, Sub-Director of Artillery.

Read, accepted and signed, Von Leszynski, Count Henckel von Donnersmark, Ducas, Mangin. Affirmed, Mundolsheim, September 28, 1870. Von Werder, Lieutenant-Colonel.

Mr. Percival, the barrister appointed to revise the list of voters for the city, recently resumed his sittings at the Court of Common Pleas, Guildhall, when Mr. Louis Birnising, Nos. 20 and 21 Basinghall street, claimed to be registered. Mr. C. Smith objected to the claimant on the ground that he was an alien. The claimant said he was born in Hungary and had come to England when very young. He afterwards went to Australia, where he remained for many years. By virtue of an act of the Colonial Legislature a residence of a certain period in that colony naturalized him and obtained the rights of a British subject. The revising barrister said the case must stand over until the claimant could prove to his satisfaction that this was the case.

It has been the unanimous opinion of even the "oldest inhabitant" that a pig was incapable of sustaining itself for any length of time by swimming, from the fact that from their peculiar mode of using their forelegs the sharp hoof would cut their throat. The following will tend to disabuse such impressions.—The lugger George and William, Hunter, of Lowestoft, when seven miles off Southwold, picked up a live pig. Poor "piggy" had had a long swim, for there was no vessel to be seen near the spot.

THE TOILERS OF THE SEA.

A Prisoner in the Cyclone—Masts and Yards Down—Driven Round and Round—Twice on the Beam Ends—Saved at Last.—Among the tidings of the disasters attendant on the hurricanes is that of the miraculous escape of the schooner Dutch Princess, Captain Hansell, which left New York on the 13th of August for Maracaibo, laden with a full cargo of general merchandise, and three passengers. Up to the 29th the voyage was remarkably prosperous. On the afternoon of that day the weather became clouded, and a heavy gale sprung up from the N. E., varying occasionally to east. The following day the gale had increased in intensity, and towards evening became a hurricane. All sails were taken in and the vessel was put before the wind under barpoles until noon, when the sea ran mountains high, apparently about to engulf the vessel. The captain, seeing that the ship was in danger of going down with a run, concluded to lay her to, believing it to be the only course open to him. The perilous moment of swinging her round to bring her head to the wind was not passed without danger, for in so doing she was thrown on her beam ends in the trough of the sea. All on board thought she was going down. The deck load, consisting of kerosene, was nearly all washed away. The captain seized an axe out of the cabin and cut away the mainmast rigging, by which she was righted, with her head to wind, which helped her slightly. In doing this Captain Howell chopped his foot badly. The cabin was full of water, and one of the passengers had a narrow escape from drowning. She was at last brought head to the wind and righted. The hurricane blew furiously from all round the compass, driving the vessel round in circles and tearing everything on deck to pieces and loosing her bowsprit. Again she was thrown on her beam ends and began to leak badly. It was found necessary to cut away the foremast, by which she again righted, with her head to wind, her masts gone and the hurricane raging, the unfortunate vessel was at the mercy of the winds and waves, and those on board expected to go down every moment. The following day the gale abated, and an effort was made to rig up a sail on the stump of the mainmast; it worked successfully for half an hour, and was then blown into shreds. All hope was again given up of saving the ship, as the sea was running awfully high and the vessel laboring furiously. In the forenoon a council was held by the captain, mate, and sailors as to what should be done in the emergency, and it was resolved to allow the vessel to drift, as she was utterly beyond control. The next day the sea began to lessen, and with renewed energy the captain succeeded in rigging up an awning and a leg-of-mutton sail, and to make for the nearest port, which was St. Thomas, according to observations taken, and in this manner creeping along the Dutch Princess arrived at St. Thomas in a sinking condition.

THE VALUE OF PARIS.

What is Risked in the Present Siege.—The London Economist calculates how much property the defenders of Paris expose to danger by awaiting a Prussian attack.—1. The value of the house property may be approximately arrived at by an estimate based on the value of London property, and apportioning to Paris an amount proportionate to the population. London, with a population of 3,400,000, having a valuation of about £270,000,000, which, capitalized at about twelve years' purchase, represents a sum of £324,000,000. We may reckon that Paris, with a population of 1,800,000, contains private house property worth about £171,500,000. Deducting ten per cent. as the value of the ground rents and unoccupied area, which may be treated as inalienable, though ground-rents would fall if Paris were itself over the whole of England of £154,350,000, representing the value of Parisian buildings which a complete bombardment and a street defense would annihilate. 2. On this basis we may calculate that an amount equal to one-half the value of the buildings would be invested in furniture or contents of the dwellings. In this way we get an estimate of £77,175,000 as the value of furniture and other contents of Parisian houses. 3. The value of the stock in trade in Parisian shops and warehouses will probably be at least one-third the aggregate of the above amounts—another sum of £77,175,000. This is a minimum computation. It appears from the returns of our fire-insurance duty, when it existed, that the stock in trade insured over the whole of England was about one-third the value of the entire property insured; and as stock-in-trade is disproportionately concentrated in large cities, it is safe to reckon that in a city like Paris the proportion of stock-in-trade to other insurable property will be as great as this average of the whole of England. Probably the estimate is far below the mark, though a very low one would of course be proper just now, considering the withdrawal of property which may be going on in expectation of a siege. These three figures sum up as follows:—1. Value of buildings, £154,350,000; 2. Value of furniture and other contents of dwellings, £77,175,000; 3. Value of stock-in-trade, £77,175,000—total, £311,700,000, which we may take as the minimum value of private property in Paris destructible in a siege.

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